Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

determining a set of business objectives [[for]] suitable for assessing each of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ candidate locations for resource placement;

developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby determining what ~~types of~~ resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

developing cost factors ~~pertaining to~~ for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically compute ~~computing~~ a value for each of the candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors;[[, and]]

using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to ~~using the programmatically-computed value to~~ programmatically select a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed values; and

assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein ~~the~~ programmatically computing the value for each of the candidate locations further comprises estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while performing the value chain analyses.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned resources are information technology personnel.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

a computer comprising a processor;

a set of business objectives suitable for assessing each of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ candidate locations for resource placement;

one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the results usable for determining what ~~types of~~ resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

cost factors ~~pertaining to~~ for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement functions comprising:

programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations[[,]] using

the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors; and

using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed values, thereby enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-selected particular location.

Claims 29 - 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;

determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;

computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance value for the business objective; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the resource in the candidate location.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to Claim 32, wherein programmatically selecting a

particular location based on the programmatically-computed values further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 34 (new): The system according to Claim 28, wherein programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;

determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;

computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance value for the business objective; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the resource in the candidate location.

Claim 35 (new): The system according to Claim 34, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location based on the programmatically-computed values further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 36 (new): A computer program product for determining resource placement, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage media and comprising computer-usable program code for:

programmatically computing a value for each of a plurality of candidate locations using a set of business objectives suitable for assessing each of the plurality of candidate locations for resource placement, according to one or more objective measurements developed for each business objective, and cost factors developed for costs of placing resources in the candidate locations, the resources determined by performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives to identify what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain; and

programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed values, for assigning the determined resources.

Claim 37 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;

determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;

computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance value for the business objective; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the resource in the candidate location.

Claim 38 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 37, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location based on the programmatically-computed values further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate location is lowest.